THE BLACK VORTEX
CHAPTER 9
LEGENDARY® STAR-LORD
010
MARVEL
HUMPHRIES
MEDINA
VLASCO
CURIEL

010
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
SOR REN TIN 0·14
RATED T
$3.99US
DIRECT EDITION
MARVEL.COM
7 59606 08103 5 01021
LEGENDARY
STAR-LORD

LEGENDARY
STAR-LORD
010
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
RATED T
$3.99US
DIRECT EDITION
MARVEL.COM
01031
7 59606 08103 5

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 9

Previously in the Black Vortex…

Billions of years ago, an ancient race named the Viscardi were gifted an object of immense cosmic power by a Celestial. This artifact, known as the Black Vortex, transformed the user, imbuing them with cosmic energy. However, the power of this object caused the Viscardi to turn on each other, annihilating their own race from within.

When Mister Knife, a.k.a. J'Son, Peter Quill's father, obtained the Black Vortex, Peter and Kitty Pryde stole the artifact and recruited the Guardians of the Galaxy and the X-Men for help. Gamora, the elder Beast, and Angel chose to submit to the Vortex and the three cosmically enhanced heroes took the artifact and left, intending to reshape the universe in their image. Hala, the homeworld of the Kree empire, was destroyed by Knife after an altercation between a cosmically enhanced Ronan the Accuser and Knife's vanguard, The Slaughter Lords. In the confusion, Nova took the Vortex and fled, but the Slaughter Lords quickly overpowered Nova, and reclaimed the Black Vortex for their own, allowing Thane, Son of Thanos, to submit and accept his own enhanced cosmic powers.

At the same time, Dr. Hank McCoy, filled with the knowledge of the cosmos, still could not find a way to correct the damage he had done to space-time. Horrified by this, and by the destruction of Hala, Beast, Gamora, Angel, Rocket, and Magic decided to seek out their friends on Spartax in order to join forces against their common enemy—Mister Knife.

SAM HUMPHRIES WRITER
PACO MEDINA PENCILS
JUAN VLASCO INKS
DAVID CURIEL COLORIST

DAVID CURIEL COLORIST
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA LETTERER
PACO MEDINA COVER ARTIST
ANDREA SORRENTINO VARIANT COVER ARTIST

CHRISTINA HARRINGTON & XANDER JAROWEY ASSISTANT EDITORS
MIKE MARTS EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF **JOE QUESADA** CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

© 2015 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

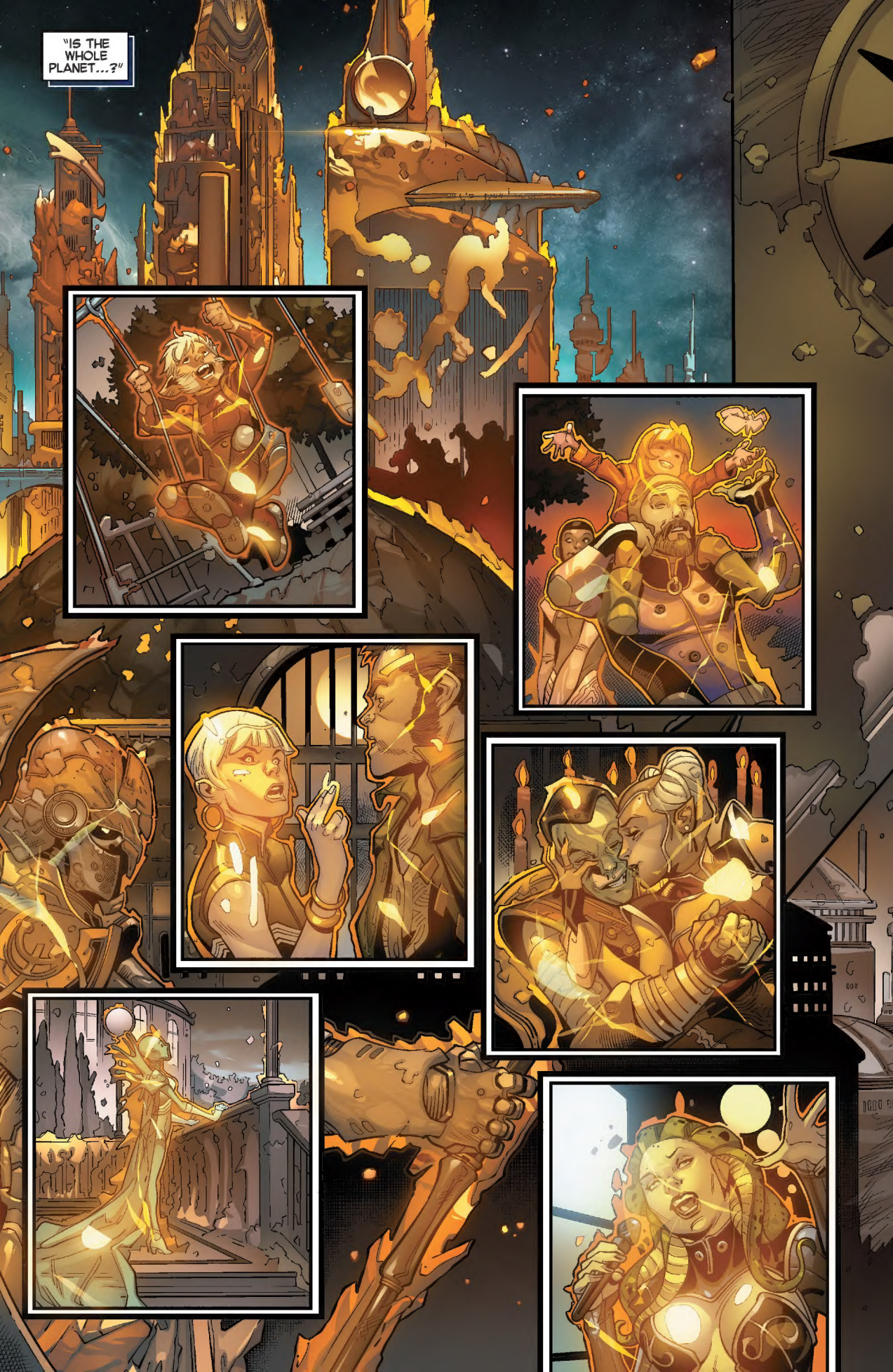
"THANE, SON OF THANOS."
SOON, THEY WILL CALL HIM "THANOS, FATHER OF THANE." AND YOU WILL BE "THANE THE SUPREME."
I PROMISED YOU POWER, THANE.
NOW-- UPHOLD YOUR PROMISE TO ME. UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE BLACK VORTEX I GAVE YOU--
WHERE?
THERE. SPARTAX.
A WHOLE PLANET, KNIFE?
VERY WELL.

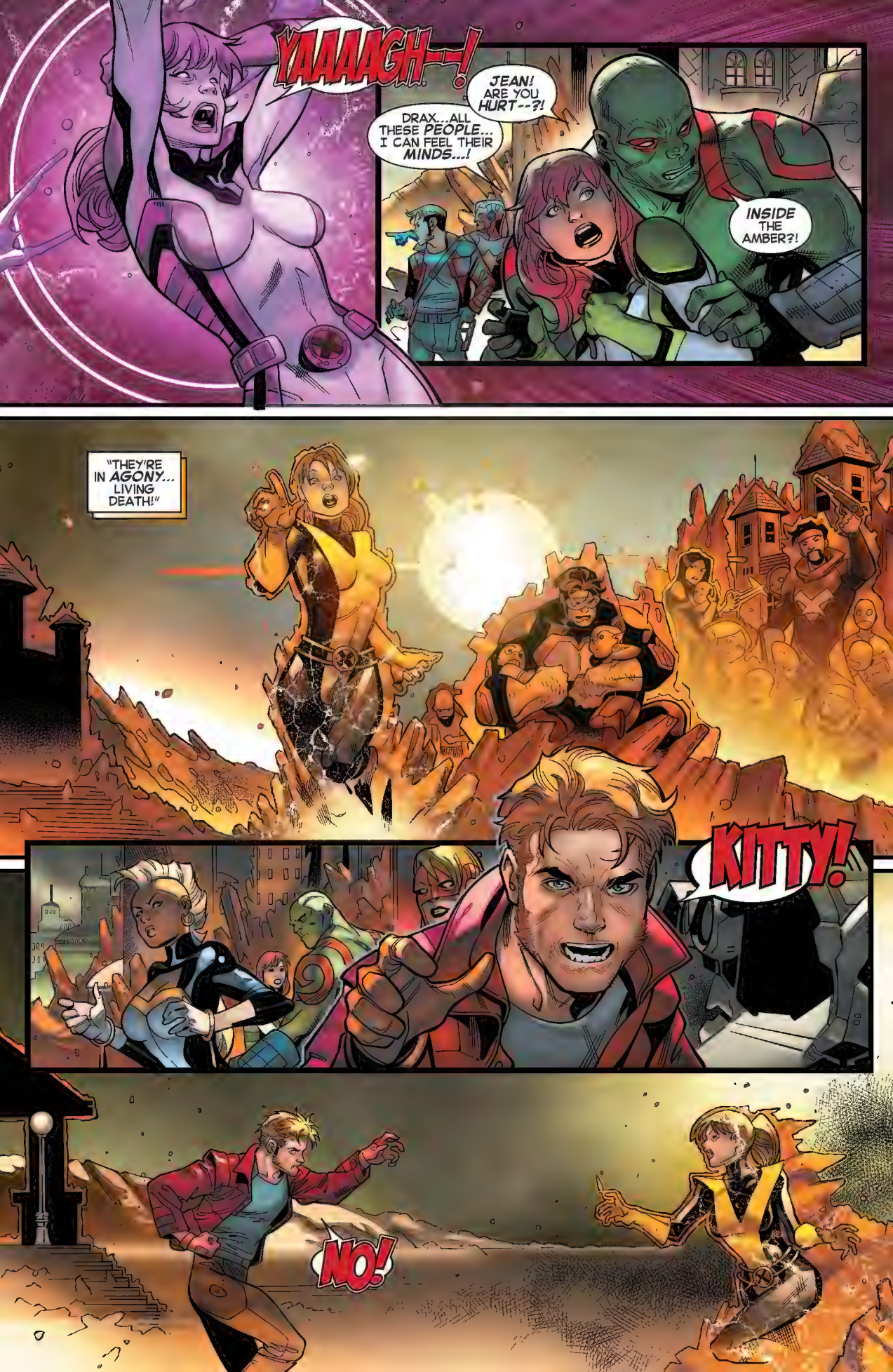
KAKARDON

WHAT THE HECK JUST HAPPENED TO THE SKY?
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A REGULAR STORM--
IT SMELLS LIKE BURNT PLASTIC. ASSUME THE WORST, PROFESSOR KITTY.
I CONCUR, HANK. MA! GO!
THE SURFACE OF SPARTAX.
EVERYONE! TO THE HOUSE, NOW!
I'M SCARED!
KITTY, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IS THE GRAVITY GETTING STRONGER--?
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD A PLANET INCREASE IN MASS SO QUICKLY--?
WHAT IN SEVEN STARS--?!
COME ON, KIDS, LET'S-- HUH?
EVERYONE! MOVE--
KAKAROOM

MY PLAN WORKED.
SPARTAX... ENCASED IN AMBER.
I STOLE AN ENTIRE PLANET!
KAKA
ROOM
IT WORKED!
EMISSARY-- YOU MAY INFORM YOUR QUEEN.
I AM READY TO FULFILL MY END OF THE DEAL.
I AM READY TO DELIVER SPARTAX TO THE BROOD.
HSSSS

I CAN'T SENSE NOVA'S MIND--
--HE ISN'T HERE!
PETER...
OH MY GOD.
...I'M SO SORRY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO SPARTAX?


"IS THE WHOLE PLANET...?"


YAAAAGH--!
JEAN! ARE YOU HURT--?!
DRAX...ALL THESE PEOPLE... I CAN FEEL THEIR MINDS...!
INSIDE THE AMBER?!
"THEY'RE IN AGONY... LIVING DEATH!"
KITTY!
NO!

OH GOD, NO.
NO NO NO--
YOU WERE RIGHT.
I'M SO SORRY.
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU.
THE BLACK VORTEX IS...
...IT'S A CURSE. I REGRET WE EVER STOLE IT FROM MY KRUTAKING FATHER.
"YOU SAID DESTROY IT, BUT I SAID NO.
"WE LOST THE KREE HOMEWORLD...AND NOW SPARTAX...
"...AND NOW YOU."
I UNLEASHED THIS ON YOU.
I'M SO SORRY FOR THE THINGS I SAID. I'M SO SORRY I DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU.
OF COURSE YOU KNEW BETTER.
YOU'RE THE BEST PERSON IN THE WHOLE GALAXY.
NOW I'LL NEVER GET TO TELL YOU-- HUH?!

HOLY--!
--GAAAAASP!
KITTY!
PETER!

ARE YOU--?
I--I'M OKAY.
KITTY... I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU, TOO, PETER...I HEARD YOU TALKING TO ME--
I WAS SO SCARED. I'M SO SORRY, THIS IS MY FAULT.
SHUSH. NOT NOW, DUMBASS. THE TIME TO BERATE YOU IS LATER.
JUST KISS ME, SPACE BOY.

IT WON'T BREAK!
KRAM
GENTLE, DRAX! GENTLE!
KITTEN! THANK THE MOTHER--!
I LOVE YOU TOO, LADIES!
PROFESSOR K! WHAT HAPPENED?
I...I DON'T KNOW, IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST--IT CAME FROM THE SKY, AND THEN...
...THIS MATERIAL, IT'S SO DENSE. I DON'T THINK I CAN PHASE ANYONE ELSE OUT...
OH, FLASH... WE'LL GET YOU OUT...
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. AROUND THANOS--
NO. NOT THANOS.
THANE. SON OF THANOS. HE WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT. HE DID IT BECAUSE...
...BECAUSE I SCREWED UP. THE BLACK VORTEX. THANE AND KNIFE GOT IT BACK.
FROM ME. AND NOW--
YOU WERE ALONE, NOVA. YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD.
WE'RE GLAD YOU FOUND US--
WE'RE BACK, LOSERS.

FWASH
DID YOU HAVE FUN WITHOUT US, OR--
OH.
KRUTAKER ON A STICK! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?!
NOTHING GOOD, ROCKET.
HANK? ARE YOU...?
HOW SUPERIOR DO YOU FEEL NOW, SPACE GENIUS?
YOU GONNA HELP US SAVE SPARTAX, OR ARE YOU TOO ENLIGHTENED TO--
OH, SHUT UP!
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH, SO SPARE US THE "SAINT PETER" ACT.
THEY'RE HERE, AREN'T THEY?
OH, I'M SORRY, MAGIK. DID YOU MISS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KREE HOMEWORLD?
GUYS, PLEASE! WE DON'T--
HEY--DID SOMEONE ORDER A REALLY GROSS PIZZA? BECAUSE--

--I JUST LOST MY APPETITE.
UH, LAST TIME A SHIP CAME OVER US LIKE THAT, I DIDN'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH--
THIS IS THE LAST THING WE NEED.
THE BROOD.

IN ORBIT AROUND SPARTAX.
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, QUEEN OF THE BROOD--
--I HOPE THE PLANET SPARTAX BRINGS YOU AS MUCH SUCCESS AS IT HAS BROUGHT ME STRIFE.
IT IS YOURS.
HsSsSsSs
THEN OUR CONTRACT IS COMPLETE.
WHAT...? ALL THAT, JUST TO HAND SPARTAX OVER TO THE--

HEE HEE HEE...
TRULY, THANE, YOU ARE NOT CUT OUT FOR CAPITALISM.
YOU DON'T KNOW A GOOD DEAL WHEN YOU SEE IT.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF OUR DEAL? STARTING NOW, FOR EVERY TEN PLANETS THE BROOD CONQUER, THEY GIVE ME ONE.
THE BROOD WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE. MY RETURN ON INVESTMENT WILL ACCRUE RAPIDLY.
I TRADED SPARTAX--
--FOR AN EMPIRE.
I AM ACTUALLY IMPRESSED. THE TIME WILL SOON COME TO TAKE IT FROM HIM--
I SEE. BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN--

"--WHAT DO THE BROOD WANT WITH SPARTAX?"
WHAT THE HECK--?
LOOK OUT!
YES. BEWARE THEIR MIGHTY BUZZING SOUND.
I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A BROOD SO PUNY AND--
SKREEEEEE!
YEAAAGH!
GET IT AWAY FROM MEEEEE--!
KABAM KABAM KABAM
KILL 'EM ALL AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER!
ZZACK ZZACK ZZACK
I'M FEELING REALLY FREAKED OUT SO I'M GONNA SHOOT A LOT!
CEASE FIRE, SOLDIERS!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, BOYS.
WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER BOAT.
THERE'S HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS-- MILLIONS OF THEM!
BUT THEY'RE NOT ATTACKING...?
LOOK--!
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US.
THEY'RE HERE FOR THEM!
CURIOUS. THE BROOD ARE A RUTHLESS RACE. MORE LIKE A VIRUS THAN AN ANIMAL.
HIGHLY SPECIALIZED. DESIGNED TO REPRODUCE AND CONSUME ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES.
THIS STRAIN IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.
SKREEE--*!
KRTCH

EGGS. AH, IT BECOMES CLEAR.
THESE "INFESTOID" BROOD WERE EVOLVED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE: SPARTAX.
WHILE THE PLANET'S CITIZENS ARE IMMOBILE WITHIN THE AMBER, THESE INFESTOIDS WILL BURROW THROUGH TO THEIR SKULLS--
--AND IMPLANT THEM WITH THEIR EGGS.
ASSUMING AN INFESTOID FOR EVERYONE ON THE PLANET, GIVEN A TYPICAL BROOD INFANT MORTALITY RATE, THE GALACTIC POPULATION OF THE BROOD WILL INCREASE OVERNIGHT--
--BY SEVENTY-TWO BILLION.
THEY'RE GONNA EXPLODE OUT OF THEIR HEADS?!
OH, BORF!
EVERYONE ON SPARTAX WILL DIE! THE GALAXY WILL BE OVERRUN!
WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO STOP THEM--
KZZAK
OH, REALLY?

BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO STOP YOU!
SLAUGHTER LORDS, ATTACK!
TO BE CONTINUED IN
THE BLACK VORTEX CHAPTER 10:
CYCLOPS #12!

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 9

FOLLOW THE SAGA OF THE BLACK VORTEX IN

CYCLOPS #12

COVER ART BY ALEXANDER LOZANO

ON-SALE FEBRUARY

~~THE BLACK VORTEX ALPHA #1~~

~~GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #24~~

~~LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #9~~

~~ALL-NEW X-MEN #38~~

ON-SALE MARCH

~~ALL-NEW X-MEN #39~~

~~GUARDIANS TEAM-UP #3~~

~~GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #25~~

~~NOVA #26~~

LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #10

ON-SALE APRIL

CYCLOPS #12

CAPTAIN MARVEL #14

LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #11

THE BLACK VORTEX OMEGA #1